

State Council on Workforce Services
Western Energy Training Center (WETC)
Helper, Utah
April 26, 2007
1:15 p.m.

State Council Members: Kevin Crandall, Dawn Skorka, David Turner, Don Salazar, Paul Jackson, Paul Nielsen, Dale Peel, Shawn Potter, Richard Thorn, Don Uchida, Gary Knapp, Deb Dull, Jeff Lindstrom

Other Attendees: Kristen Cox, Mike Richardson, Stephanie Smith, Marty Kelly, Jan Thompson, Steve Maas, Melissa Freigang, Shauna South, LeAnn Muranaka, Jane Broadhead, Cassy Hahn, Lorri Economy, Ann Barnson, Andrea Worthen, Lois Bulloch, Helen Thatcher, Susan Wright, Julie Lay, Debby Nordfelt, Melisa Stark, Stan Eckersley, JoLyn Bevan, Connie Laws, Melissa Finch, Judy Chambley, Karen Silver, Rod Barlow, Bob Gilbert, Lou Sansevero, Mike Medley, Randy Hopkins, Deborah VanLeeuwen, Bill Starks, Thom Smith, Jon Pierpont, James Whitaker, Jami Golding, Bill Greer, Chris Love, Greg Gardner, Mike Richardson, Steve Burge

Welcome and Opening Business

Kevin Crandall welcomed the group and introduced Steve Burge, Director, Western Energy Training Center (WETC). Kevin stated without the State Council's support, WETC might not be here. He called for approval of the Consent Agenda. Paul Nielsen motioned to approve the 11 January 2007 Minutes as written, Shawn Potter seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Paul Jackson motioned to approve the four training providers: 1) Taylor Andrews Academy of Hair Design, West Jordan, Utah; 2) The Safety Consortium, Salt Lake City, Utah; 3) Utah Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), Logan, Utah; and 4) Aesthetic Dental Arts, South Jordan, Utah, Gary Knapp seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Kevin recognized six Regional Council Chairs whose terms will expire on June 30, 2007. He welcomed several new Regional Council Chairs and Kristen Cox, new DWS Executive Director.

Executive Director's Report

Kristen Cox thanked the State Council for being here today and stated she is glad to have joined the Department. She reported the following:

- DWS is going through transition and continues with strategic direction:
 - Expand community partnerships to increase access to our services;

- Maintain exceptional customer service and program excellence;
 - Utilize technology; streamline processes to minimize costs and maximize resources;
- The medical eligibility consolidation, passed by the Legislature during the 2007 General Session, continues to move forward;
- The WICC (Workforce Improvement and Coordination Committee), a subcommittee of the State Council has been dissolved. Those activities and functions will be consolidated into the WEEDA (Workforce, Education and Economic Development Alliance) and Chaired by Richard Kendell, Commissioner of Higher Education. Kevin Crandall has been named a voting member of WEEDA;
- The Incumbent Worker Training Program has been expanded. This is a result of fewer caseloads and a strong economy. DWS wants to ensure workers are trained and have the ability to earn higher wages;
- Modernization will be pushed over the next few months.

Welcome State Council and Fellow Regional Chairs

Deb Dull, Southeast Regional Council Chair, welcomed the group to the WETC. She recognized Steve Burge, who was instrumental in getting WETC up and running. She feels the partnership between WETC and DWS is phenomenal. 18 DWS employment counselors recently visited the WETC where they met with faculty and discussed work readiness.

Overview of the WETC

Steve Burge presented the group with an overview of the WETC:

- WETC was formed to respond to regional energy industry workforce needs, to provide innovative and state of the art training and to recruit and prepare employees to fill jobs;
- As energy is a big issue in this Southeast region, the industry focus is coal, natural gas, utilities, oil, construction, and transportation;
- In 2005, the College of Eastern Utah (CEU) was awarded a \$2.7M Department of Labor grant with a focus on workforce training;
- CEU obtained \$1.1M from the Legislature to buy the property;
- Steve recognized the support received from the State Council on Workforce Services;
- WETC's Grand Opening was held September 28, 2006;
- To date, WETC has trained 2000+ workers/students;

Legislative Update

Mike Richardson summarized the 2007 Legislative Session. All bills proposed were passed:

- HB 0023 Employment Security Act Amendments
- HB 0024 Employment Support Act
- SB 0011 Unemployment Compensation Social Security Offset
- SB 0014 Family Employment Program Amendments
- SB 0015 Workforce Services - Reporting Misuse of Personal Identifying Information
- SB 0021 Workforce Services Work Experience or Training Programs
- SB 0103 Ineligibility for Unemployment Compensation Benefits
- SB 0031 Sunset Review and Reauthorizations

The following Appropriation Requests were funded:

- General Assistance (GA) Program - \$3Million ongoing, \$2Million one time
- Child Care Program - \$3.2Million ongoing
- eREP Project - \$3.2Million one time

WIA and Wagner-Peyser State Plan

Shawn Potter referred to the modified State Plan. He explained two years ago, the State Council drafted this plan. Now, it has been fine-tuned and contains more information on the Incumbent Worker Training Program, and initiatives such as WEEDA and WIRED. Connie Laws called for questions and opened up the floor for public comment. Karen Silver, Salt Lake Community Action Program, asked if the Plan was published in a legal notice. The draft Plan was available on the DWS web site. Shawn Potter motioned to accept the modified plan as presented, Richard Thorn seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Incumbent Worker

Connie Laws reported in January, DWS requested approval of a waiver to move up to 50% of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult and Dislocated Worker training dollars into Incumbent Worker Training dollars. The Department of Labor has approved. 19 of 26 employers who applied for the grant will be funded in late May or early June. Connie has met with each of the Regional Councils. Dawn Skorka motioned to move up to 40% of WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker training funds into Incumbent Worker Training funds, Paul Jackson seconded the motion and the motion carried. Paul amended his motion, adding: 1) if these funds are not obligated, they will be returned; and, 2) the

flexibility to add an additional 10% at the October meeting, increasing to 50%, will be maintained.

Economic Report

Steve Maas reported the following:

- Utah's economy is currently growing at about 4.5%. That puts Utah at possibly the best in the nation;
- Unemployment is at 2.4%;
- For the third year, Utah industrial sectors are growing. Only Information Technology is sluggish, and government growth is a modest 1%;
- Construction remains the state's strongest industry;
- Utah's regional economies are all doing well.

Regional Council Chairs' Committee

Dawn Skorka reported the following from the Regional Council Chairs' Committee meeting:

- Jeff Lindstrom, Mountainland Regional Council, was elected as the new Chair;
- Central Region is currently working on a partnership with the Salt Lake Chamber and has formed a subcommittee to address recruitment and retainment issues;
- Central Region Youth are working on summer projects;
- Mountainland Region has restructured their Council meetings. Subcommittees have been dissolved with the focus on the Council as a whole. They are allowing time for Council members to discuss individual businesses and are incorporating presentations. In June, a refresher course will be offered which will discuss the business leader's role in serving on the State Council and how this helps with the Governor's initiatives. Thank you letters were sent out to employers of the Council members. Last week, MR held their retreat in Midway. Regional Council members completed a Food Stamp application;
- Western Region continues to experience a shortage of machinists and welders. They are focusing on schools and employers and recently hosted a luncheon, which brought these groups together. New employers have moved into the region. WR continues to focus on marketing.
- Southeast Region reports 19% of San Juan residents apply for food stamps each month. SE was recently awarded two grants: 1) to obtain

the ability to better educate and train high school students who want to enter into a nursing program; 2) will provide nursing students with new technology which mimics medical situations. Students will have the opportunity to practice on mannequins with the results recorded on computers. 100% of San Juan nursing students have passed their boards. Lisbon Valley Copper Mine is experiencing difficulty recruiting lab technicians and has issues with drug abuse. Three companies in SE region have applied for the Incumbent Worker Training grant;

- The Uintah Basin's priority is oil extraction. An ad hoc committee has been formed to promote healthcare;
- Western Region hosted Construction Career Days at the Washington County Fairgrounds. More than 3000 students attended. DWS set up an internet café so students could work on the DWS web site. WR hosted a WIA Youth Event. The first day was a door opener, and the second day the youth attended a reality store. Real life events were discussed, such as housing, transportation, insurance and groceries. Afterwards, the youth shopped at the store and purchased these items. WR has three new County Commissioners.

Operations and Performance Committee (O&P)

Shawn Potter reported the following from the Operations and Performance Committee meeting:

- O&P discussed the WIA budget. Funds will be carried over from the prior year to the current year;
- O&P discussed priority and the points used to determine if a customer is eligible for training dollars. O&P is recommending the threshold be decreased from 8 to 4. It is expected when customers return to school in the fall, the demand for training dollars will increase. By the next meeting, O&P wants to have a pathway in place for DWS staff to determine priority internally using a range set by the Council. This will allow DWS staff to serve the needs of the customer without lag time. The current schedule of approval of priority is behind. A report outlining what will drive the priority will be discussed at the next meeting;
- Incumbent Worker Training was discussed. 19 out of 26 applications submitted were approved. \$1.7M funded;
- The State Plan was discussed and approved.

Gary Knapp motioned to decrease the priority points from 8 to 4, Shawn Potter seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Online Services and Marketing Committee

Deborah Van Leeuwen reported the following from the Online Services and Marketing Committee:

- DWS will be working with the Enterprise, a weekly publication that delivers business news to business leaders. They have specialized focus issues on subjects such as education and training. Several other outlets will be used to market DWS. A portion of the budget is directed for regional purposes. Suggestions should be sent to Curt Stewart;
- The group discussed the need for out of state recruitment originally suggested during the holiday season. Now, it is the regions' responsibilities to suggest ideas;
- The group discussed Incumbent Worker Training. As it is recognized small employers need help in completing paperwork, assistance is available through the State Technical Support. Several regional councils helped in the application process during the first round. The 15-employee minimum has been eliminated. The next opportunity will be available this summer;
- Employer 101, Labor Law Basic Training, a series of 10-minute trainings, are available online on jobs.utah.gov;
- The group discussed Workforce News, with eight different versions published quarterly. The regions were asked to provide greater awareness of Workforce News to employers;
- Western Governors University, based in Northern Utah, recently received a \$3M grant from the Department of Labor. They put together a scholarship focusing on people who are interested in becoming math and science teachers in rural Utah. DWS supported the grant submission;
- DWS is partnering with Voc Rehab to establish an easier way in our system to find jobs for People With Disabilities (PWD). The search word PWD indicates the employer is seeking individuals with disabilities and will allow us to individualize job searches;
- A press release to announce the incumbent worker awardees has been scheduled. This information will also be available on the DWS web site.

State Youth Council

Jane Broadhead reported the following from today's State Youth Council meeting:

- Parley Jacobs has replaced Paul Jackson as the Chair of the Central Region Youth Chair;
- The SYC adjusted the expenditure requirement from 70% to 50%. This allows flexibility. The Department of Labor has asked us to increase services to Native American youth, Youth with disabilities and refugee youth;
- The SYC spotlighted an employer here in Southeast region;
- The SYC discussed their July Agenda;
- The SYC wants to ensure the voice of young people are represented at regional and state youth council meetings.

Public Comment

Karen Silver reported the Center on Law and Social Policy has models on incumbent worker training. These models are helping employers and incumbent workers. A report is available on their website.

Other Business

The next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2007.

The Department will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary in July.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.